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STATE LEGISLATURE, MAD

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 23rd July 1964

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, Madras, at half-past eight of the Clock Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI S. CHELLAPANDIAN) in the Chair.

I. OBITUARY REFERENCE TO SRI A. K. HANUMANTHA RAYA GOUNDER, EX-M.L.A.

MR. SPEAKER : I regret to inform the House about the death, on 1st June 1964, of Sri A. K. Hanumantha Raya Gounder, a Member of the Assembly from 1952–57 representing Vaniambadi Constituency.

I request the hon. Members to stand in silence for two minutes as a mark of expressing our sorrow and showing our respect to the departed soul.

The Members stood in silence for two minute.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The Short Notice Question and Question 670-A may be taken up together.

Explosion Incident (Madras City).

* 5 *S.N.Q.*—Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any investigation was made into the causes of the explosion of godown in Madras City on 19th May 1964;

(*b*) the extent of loss of life and number of persons injured due to the explosion; and

(*c*) the action to be taken against the owner of the godown?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Twenty-nine persons were injured in the accident (28 men and one woman). Twenty one persons (20 men and one woman) died in the hospital. Six persons have been discharged from the hospital and who are still in the hospital.

(*c*) A case of ' Fire Accident ' was first registered by the Police. This has since been altered and it is proposed to take action under Section 304-A, I.P.C.—causing death by negligence As the owner of the building had violated the conditions under which a licence was granted to him for storing explosives, he is liable under the Indian Arms Act.